

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 02311 061812Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 PA-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 02311

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: DISCUSSION OF TASK
FORCE REPORTS AT MARCH 8 EWG MEETING

REFS: (A) USNATO 2018 DTG 271445Z FEB 78, (B) USNATO 2158
DTG 021444Z MAR 78

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1. THE AGENDA ITEM FOR THE MARCH 8 EWG MEETING THAT ADDRESSES TASK FORCE REPORTS IS ENTITLED SIMPLY "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF TASK FORCE REPORTS". WE KNOW THAT ASYG MUMFORD, WHO WILL CHAIR THE MEETING, DOES NOT ENVISAGE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON INDIVIDUAL TASK FORCE REPORTS. WE BELIEVE THAT HE FEELS MOST DELEGATIONS WILL BE WITHOUT FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REPORTS AND THAT HASTILY DRAFTED INSTRUCTIONS AND UNINSTRUCTED COMMENT ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL FOR FUTURE EWG WORK. WE SHARE THAT VIEW.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WHILE WE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENT AND REACTION OF A GENERAL NATURE, WE RECOMMEND THAT ANY SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS SINGLING OUT PARTICULAR TASK FORCES (SUCH AS CALLING FOR FURTHER WORK BY THE TASK FORCE) BE DISCRETIONARY. IF EWG DISCUSSION TURNS SUBSTANTIVE ON
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PARTICULAR TASK FORCES, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO EXECUTE OUR GUIDANCE; OTHERWISE WE WOULD PROBABLY HOLD BACK LEST WE OPEN A PANDORA'S BOX. WE SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE EWG MEMBERS TO AGREE TO ANY SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS.

3. IF THE SITUATION ARGUES AGAINST RAISING SUBSTANTIVE

POINTS AT THE EWG MEETING ITSELF, WE COULD MAKE OUR PROPOS-
ALS FORMALLY, BY LETTER, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY OOB, MARCH 8, 1978.
BENNETT

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